

## STOP THE SLAUGHTER OF THOUSANDS OF RABBITS

I want to express my disapproval for HB 5263, the bill to allow the processing of thousands of rabbits for food consumption. Essentially the Department of Agriculture's proposal will bring factory-like farming of rabbits to CT under the guise of promoting farming in the state. Rabbits are pets, not vegetables or grains.

Please vote no on this bill and keep Connecticut moving forward like the rest of the country not leaping backward.

The following are a few reasons to discard this bill. Certainly, the department can find business opportunities that have a viable market, honor our pets and keep up with the growing trend in animal welfare in our country.

1. Rabbits are the third most common household pet after dogs and cats
2. Due to public pressure, Petco and PetSmart stopped selling pet rabbits.
3. They now only display rescue rabbits for adoption – the same treatment they give to dogs and cats.
4. Whole Foods and other specialty stores stopped selling rabbit meat after concluding there was no market for sales.
5. The multi-billion-dollar cosmetic industry has been moving away from using rabbits and other animals in their testing programs due to consumer pressure.

While the rest of the country has recognized and elevated rabbits as pets, this initiative would be a step backward. Please vote no. Thank you for considering my comments and hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,

Denise Demaras

35 Aylesbury Circle

Madison, Ct 06443

[ddemaras@gmail.com](mailto:ddemaras@gmail.com)